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Press Release

Union County Celebrates Completion of New Human Services Center with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

MONROE, N.C. (February 23, 2018) -- State and local officials joined together for a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of Union County's new Human Services Center.

The 144,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art Human Services Center houses the Division of Social Services, Division of Public Health and Human Services Administration. The facility is located at the intersection of US 601 (Skyway Drive) and Concord Avenue in Monroe, N.C. on approximately 30.53 acres of land. Public Health and Human Services will open to serve the public on March 6, and Social Services will be open on March 13.

Michelle Lancaster, Assistant County Manager and Executive Director of Human Services, began the ceremony, which also included County Manager Cindy Coto, Chairman of the Union County Board of Commissioners Jerry Simpson, Department of Human Services Board Member Jonathan Thomas, and North Carolina State Senator Tommy Tucker.

"We've always had a top-notch staff, but our former location had its limitations," said Lancaster. "We now have a first-class facility for our team to care for and serve the community. Our residents are going to see a huge improvement in their experience and the quality of service they receive. This will be a wonderful new chapter for Union County Human Services."

The facility was designed by Perkins+Will and built by Monteith Construction Company at a cost of \$24,376,000. It is replacing the former location known as Union Village and offers a streamlined organization with divisions, examination rooms and employee offices specifically placed in the building to more effectively coordinate services and care for the community.

"Today is the culmination of years of planning, discussion and design," said Coto. "This project represents our commitment to strengthening our community and the value we place on the residents we serve."

The new building is designed to offer a welcoming and comfortable environment for both residents and staff. According to Kevin Turner, Principal with Perkins+Will, a key feature contributing to a healthy and positive customer experience is an abundance of natural daylight. "Research clearly shows us the benefits of natural light including its corresponding improvements in mood, cognitive health, and employee productivity," he said.

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